

We Are All Partners Against Adult Abuse

If you suspect
abuse or neglect
of a vulnerable adult,
call DSHS toll-free

1-866-ENDHARM
(1-866-363-4276)



Aging &
Adult Services
Administration

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Abuse of vulnerable adults (people who need help to care for themselves) can happen anytime, anywhere. **As a responsible citizen, do your part to protect vulnerable adults.**

There are many signs that can indicate abuse or neglect. Below are just a few.

Abuse (physical, mental, sexual, or emotional) is a deliberate action or lack of action that causes harm. Some signs include:

- The adult reports being abused
- The adult has unexplained injuries
- The adult fears the caregiver
- The caregiver refuses to allow visitors

Abandonment is leaving the vulnerable adult without means of caring for self. Some signs include:

- The adult is deserted in their home
- The adult reports being abandoned

Neglect is the failure to maintain the health and safety of the adult. **Self-neglect** is the person's own failure to maintain health and safety. Some signs include:

- Sudden decline in physical appearance
- Untreated injuries or health problems
- Unsafe living conditions

Exploitation occurs when someone takes advantage of a vulnerable adult. Exploitation may be financial or personal. Some signs include:

- Disappearance of possessions or property
- Sudden transfer of money; unexplained or unusual use of bankcards

If you even **suspect** someone is being abused or neglected, you should report it. **You can report anonymously.** Trained DSHS staff will investigate.

**Call DSHS Toll-Free at:
1-866-EndHarm
(1-866-363-4276)**

This number is for the GENERAL PUBLIC ONLY. **Mandatory reporters should continue to call the direct reporting numbers.**

**For more information, visit the DSHS web site at:
www.wa.gov/dshs/**